



AETC News Clips

Randolph AFB, Texas



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NEW: BRAC commissioners wrap up visits, vote just weeks away

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Sig Christenson
Express-News Military Writer

Retired Air Force Gen. Sue Ellen Turner slumped in her seat on Southwest Airlines Flight 2099Y on a Friday night in Houston, the last leg of a storm-delayed journey that began on the East Coast, when she was greeted by a reporter.

An involuntary twitch followed, then a muffled reply.

"I was tired," said Turner, a member of the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission. "It took me a half hour to realize it was you."

As this year's closure round hits the home stretch, the work is piling up on Turner, 63, of San Antonio and eight other BRAC commissioners. They've added eight installations to a closure list that already had 33 bases on it, a decision that's triggered even more reading, travel, regional hearings and research for the BRAC staff of 90. The panel's whirlwind tour of bases in the crosshairs continued this past weekend, when retired Rep. James H. Bilbray visited a base in Alaska.

Site visits and meetings with those communities will end Aug. 12. A vote on the fate of three Texas bases on the closure chopping block — one of them Brooks City-Base — is only weeks away, and well before then the commissioners will have to pore over thick notebooks and reports filed by communities on the hit list.

Overtime, fear, frequent flyer miles and high anxiety come with the turf for Turner and her fellow commissioners. Every community on the list has reason to see them as the cavalry or the Grim Reaper, all-powerful beings who can wipe out thousands of jobs or save them just in the nick of time by casting a "yea" or "nea" vote.

These towns have talked up the value of their bases, talked down rivals and outlined the dire consequences of closure. They poured into San Antonio's regional hearing last month by the thousands wearing colorful T-shirts and carrying placards and miniature American flags.

"I think people have been genuinely happy to see us there because the BRAC commission essentially is the only group that can help them at this point," Turner said.

Nobody is giving up in Texas. San Antonio is providing data to support its proposal to keep parts of City-Base that have ties to military medicine and technology. Red River Army Depot in Texarkana welcomed its fourth BRAC commissioner, Bilbray, while Naval Station Ingleside boosters last week pumped \$370,000 into a quick-strike research project that aims to promote South Texas installations as a new home for naval aviator training. They'll submit a report by Aug. 10.

That action came after the commission added Master Jet Base Oceana, Va., to the list, with retired Army Gen. Tom Hill suggesting its jets could be moved to Naval Air Station Kingsville and an aircraft carrier

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placed in Ingleside. Oceana fell on the list because of development that prevents young aviators from receiving realistic training, including tricky night carrier landings.

"It was huge," former Corpus Christi Mayor Loyd Neal said of Hill's two-day tour of the region, which came before the commission added Oceana to the BRAC list on July 19. "And obviously it resonated with him, enough to get seven votes."

Red River and Ingleside, which together stand to lose 7,700 jobs, are opposite sides the same coin. William Ehrie, chief of the state's effort to save bases, said commissioners must decide whether shuttering Red River will hurt the Army's ability to renovate vehicles and weapons systems that are critical to the war effort. He said Ingleside is a relatively new facility that could take in part of Oceana's mission, but noted that many other things also factor into the equation.

"You're going to need housing, you're going to need school districts, you're going to need barracks, you're going to need dining halls and medical facilities," said Ehrie. "And sometimes that costs money."

Well aware that the future of those regions hangs in the balance, Turner cast herself as an impartial jurist in a lengthy interview with the San Antonio Express-News. Though in a prior interview with the paper she lambasted "the obscene amount of dollars" spent by cities trying to stay off the BRAC list, Turner sidestepped questions about the South Texas effort, saying, "I don't know what they expect from their investment, but obviously they would like for it to go the way they want it to go, but I don't even want to go there."

Turner praised Red River as an "extremely efficient" facility that's helped GIs at war, and said the loss of 4,500 jobs there and at a nearby ammunition plant will weigh in her deliberations. But while it's "a significant impact and that does play into it, it's not the overriding issue," she added.

There is no guarantee that any of the bases added to the BRAC list last month will close, and the same is true of installations that made the original Pentagon list that was made public May 13. A series of votes later this month will settle the matter, with President Bush and Congress then either approving or rejecting it.

Soft spoken and, perhaps, the commission's quietest member, Turner does her best to wear a poker face when pressed on anything that might indicate how she'll vote. She'll tell you Red River's role in repairing vehicles used in Iraq and Afghanistan has given her pause on the Pentagon's recommendation to close the depot, Texarkana's No. 1 employer and home to the region's best-paying jobs. There's also a chance she'll visit South Texas to better understand the missions there, but Turner leaves it at that.

Veteran observers like retired Air Force Brig. Gen. John G. Jernigan, leader of San Antonio's BRAC task force, think repeated visits to a base are a good sign. One expert close to the BRAC process agreed, and suggested some of the commissioners doubt Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld's reasoning for ordering Red River closed.

The head of Texarkana's effort to save Red River saw a good omen after Bilbray's four-hour tour last week. "The commissioner seemed to be interested in the workers — not the big picture work force but the individual workers," Jerry Sparks said. "He asked a couple of questions about unemployment, impact and some other things, so we could tell he was concerned about people, not just numbers."

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Turner cautioned that no one should read anything into repeat visits. She pushed back when asked about Jernigan's proposal to keep Brooks' School of Aerospace Medicine in the Alamo City, along with the base's Air Force Institute for Operational Health and directed-energy laboratory.

The idea is to save three key areas of Brooks that have ties to San Antonio's growing medical and technology sectors, rather than the entire base, and use them to benefit forward surgical and air evacuation training — key wartime missions.

Turner, a one-time head nurse at Wilford Hall Medical Center, said she's discussed the subject with Jernigan but begged off when asked if the idea made sense. "I really would rather not comment on it because I would have to make something up," she said.

Turner insists she hasn't decided the fate of any base. She points to a shelf in her Virginia office full of thick binders containing information on the 20 or so visits she has made to installations on the list and nine regional hearings she's attended, one in San Antonio.

The binders include data on the base's missions, charts and analysts' reports, among other things. Turner's been reading since the commission began its work, and typically goes through the notebooks before touring an installation. There will be much more reading before a final vote on the base.

"Everything that I've been given is in my office here in Crystal City, and all the notes I've taken in regional meetings are in my office, and so when the time comes to dig in, all those resources are going to be there to help refresh my recollection," Turner said.

"It's about as much reading as I care to do for a long time. In fact, I may never read again."

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AETC News Clips

AFIT Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio



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EDITORIAL

AFIT's story is one to brag about

By the Dayton Daily News

There's going to be a big production on Tuesday aimed at protecting the Air Force's graduate school at Wright-Patterson.

At the last minute, the Air Force Institute of Technology was put on a possible consolidation or closure list that the Base Realignment and Closure Commission is considering. Now two BRAC commissioners are coming to town to see AFIT for themselves. The push is on to have Ohio's top elected officials and the presidents of the University of Dayton and Wright State University make sure the officials understand AFIT's value to the Air Force and to the Dayton community.

Of course, the school's role in the Air Force is what really counts.

Entire bases are being closed in communities across the country. Those facilities are certainly important to those towns, even if the Pentagon has concluded that they're not essential to the military.

The case for AFIT is strong on its face, but what Dayton has done right is make sure that the community has supported and enhanced the institution's work. Obviously, the school doesn't have the local public profile of UD or Wright State, but awareness of it is not the measure of its reach.

AFIT has rich connections to both of those universities and to others in Ohio. Its 1,000 or so students take classes at other schools, thereby allowing AFIT to offer just the curriculum that is unique to the Air Force and is too sensitive to be offered at a civilian institution.

Arguably even more important to the service, AFIT students are essentially next door to 2,000 scientists and engineers at the Air Force Research Laboratory. AFIT advocates say this is "one of the largest concentrations of scientists at a single location in the world."

Not a bad environment for master's degree students and doctoral candidates to be in.

Backers also say that in fiscal year 2004, AFIT students were involved in research estimated to save the Air Force \$29.6 million. Certainly they could be involved in important work if AFIT's functions were farmed out to public and private universities. But it's not at all clear that students' work would be of as much direct value to the Air Force.

The fact that AFIT's existence has come in for scrutiny so many times — in previous BRAC processes and even from within the Air Force — suggests its story isn't being told well.

On each occasion, when the bigwigs investigated the facts, they concluded that trying to replicate AFIT elsewhere or closing it wouldn't be cost-effective or good for the Air Force. You'd think that given all the graduates who've come out of the school and in light of the job it's doing providing engineers and scientists for critical military-specific missions, the threat wouldn't keep coming up.

Ohio has been good to AFIT, ensuring that its faculty and students have access to state grants and networks and resources that scientists care about. These positive relationships are going to continue because Ohio's schools know the value of synergy and pooling talent.

AFIT's work has to speak for itself. It has in the past, and, on Tuesday, the people who understand its contribution best need to tell that story with the same passion as they have before.

Find this article at: <http://www.daytondailynews.com/opinion/content/opinion/daily/0801afit.html>

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR FOR AUG. 1

By the Dayton Daily News

AFIT linked to other schools

The Base Realignment and Closure Commission, which has only had time to take a cursory look at the Air Force Institute of Technology, appears not to appreciate how tightly linked AFIT is to other universities.

Ohio has been focusing on getting its graduate universities to take advantage of not just economies of scale, but also qualities of scale, which means being able to do more things more effectively because you have access to more resources.

The business and higher education communities in Dayton took the first step toward synergy by creating the Dayton Area Graduate Studies Institute in 1994. It's a state-funded consortium of the graduate schools of engineering and computer science at AFIT, the University of Dayton and Wright State University. Ohio State University, the University of Cincinnati and Miami University are affiliates.

DAGSI scholarships, fellowships and research grants support top students and faculty doing cutting-edge, collaborative research tied to the interests of the Air Force and local industry. State funding of more than \$18 million that began in 1999 (and continues) has had a key role in strengthening AFIT's participation in research with the DAGSI universities.

Since its inception, DAGSI has supplied close to 200 skilled engineering graduates to the Ohio work force. About 25 percent of those graduates took positions with the Air Force.

AFIT's participation in DAGSI increases the region's competitiveness in attracting high-caliber students and faculty. AFIT faculty have collaborated on 35 research programs sponsored by DAGSI, most of them tied directly to the Air Force Research Lab at Wright-Patterson.

AFIT is also a part of Ohio's research/commercialization Third Frontier Project. Seventy-five percent of DAGSI graduates have degrees and experience directly relevant to technologies targeted in Ohio's Third Frontier programs.

The graduate education and research links between AFIT and Ohio's universities are continuing to get stronger. AFIT and Wright-Patterson are connected to Ohio's Third Frontier Network — the nation's leading "superscale broadband" network. Access to this network allows AFIT faculty and students to share advanced instrumentation, including resources such as the Ohio Supercomputer Center, as well as to participate in collaborative graduate program offerings.

For the Air Force, pulling AFIT out of Dayton is like moving a fighter wing to an air base without runways.

— **Garrison Walters**, Columbus

Mr. Walters is vice chancellor at the Ohio Board of Regents.

Find this article at: <http://www.daytondailynews.com/opinion/content/opinion/daily/0801letters.html>

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Keesler AFB, Miss.



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29 Jul 2005/Sun Herald/World

The lonely front

As more and more refuse controversial anthrax vaccine, military worries that troops are too vulnerable

By DAVID GOLDSTEIN

By RENI WINTER

KEESLER AFB - Air Force physician John Buck will be allowed to remain in the military and will not serve prison time for disobeying a direct order to take an anthrax vaccine before being deployed overseas.

After 90 minutes of deliberation Tuesday, an 11-member panel of Keesler Air Force Base officers sentenced Capt. Buck to 60 days of base restriction and fined him \$1,500 a month --- almost half his salary --- for 14 months. A written reprimand will also be placed in his personnel file.

Monday, the panel convicted Buck of willfully disobeying an order from a superior officer. He had faced the possibility of five years in prison and dismissal from the Air Force.

"We are very satisfied with how it went," said Capt. Jim Winner, an Air Force spokesman. "They issued an appropriate sentence we cannot quibble with."

Lead defense attorney Frank Spinner did not claim victory, however. He plans to appeal Lt. Col. Mark Allred's decision last week that the order to take the anthrax vaccine is lawful. Allred, who acted as judge in the case, did not allow the panel to consider the lawfulness of the order.

"The sentence is relatively light compared to a prison sentence or dismissal," Spinner said. "That is a stiff financial penalty."

During Tuesday's sentencing phase of the court-martial, Buck read eight pages of unsworn testimony to the panel, explaining his decision to disobey the order.

"I was at the crossroads between the oath of an officer and the oath of a physician," Buck said. "The only way I could have peace about the apparent conflict was to do what I knew to be right as a physician and to stare down the barrel of the gun with the courage of an officer... I knew that enlisted personnel had been court-martialed before me and all had been found guilty. I could have walked away and protected my self-interest, but I feel I would have turned my back on my troops."

Prosecutors had asked that Buck be dismissed. For an officer, that is the equivalent of a dishonorable discharge.

Buck's mother, Anne Works, testified on her son's behalf. She described his achievements in school and his pride in being accepted into the Air Force. When she finished testifying, she asked the panel for mercy for Buck.

Works was one of four character witnesses who testified on Buck's behalf Tuesday.

Maj. Bruce Bishop, chief of the emergency room at Keesler Medical Center, described Buck's loyalty to the Air Force when he said, "I think Dr. Buck bleeds bluer than any of the other ER physicians... Once he learned enough about the anthrax vaccine to believe it was dangerous, well, he is the type of person who would take on a cause he believed in. I have no doubt that he is doing this because it's the right thing to do."

Buck's attorneys attempted to submit documents, including statements from Department of Defense personnel and excerpts from congressional hearings, that they said support his belief that the anthrax vaccine is an experimental drug and is neither safe, effective nor legal in the manner it is being used by the military.

Spinner challenged Allred's refusal to accept the documents and asked the judge whether he was influenced by outside authorities.

"We are concerned that there have been other influences with respect to the ruling not to allow these documents," Spinner said to Allred, who didn't answer.

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After sentencing, Spinner said the case raises questions about the independence of the military judicial system in which judges must answer to their superiors.

The official military position is that the vaccine is safe and the best weapon against biological attacks.

Pressure mounted to immunize soldiers to biological agents in the wake of the Persian Gulf War.

Buck was issued the order to take the vaccine when he was scheduled to be part of an emergency medical team deployed to Oman or Bahrain less than a week after the bombing of the USS Cole.

He said he refused the order because he had treated patients at Keesler Medical Center who had adverse reactions to the vaccine. Once he faced criminal charges, he said he researched the vaccine further and became more convinced that it is potentially harmful to troops and is not effective.

Monday, Buck's commander rejected his request that he be allowed to resign under a general discharge, which is granted to those with only minor infractions on their service record. It is a step below an honorable discharge, which is given to those with an exemplary record.

Anthrax is a disease that typically afflicts animals, especially sheep and cattle. Dry anthrax spores, which can be put into weapons, can cause death in humans if inhaled.

Buck has become a key figure in the resistance to the mandatory anthrax program. He and a former Air Force major filed suit May 2 against the Food and Drug Administration and the Defense Department in U.S. District Court in Washington seeking to end the program.

The Sun Herald

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Little Rock AFB, Ark.



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AR vs NY; Battle For C-130's

It all stems from a study commissioned by the Air Force itself, starting with a visit to the Little Rock Air Force Base a few weeks ago. The goal, to try and come up with a number, a cost figure for how much it would take to move more C-130's to Arkansas. They're findings, obtained by Fox 16 News, reason Senator Clinton is calling for more C-130's to stay away from the Natural State.

Earlier air force estimates show moving C-130's to Little Rock would cost about \$100 million. But this week, at the request of New York Senator Hillary Clinton, the Air Force releasing a very different cost estimate. After visiting L.R.A.F.B., a site survey estimated the move of C-130's from Niagara Falls, and other bases, to the base in Jacksonville, at almost three times that amount at \$292 million. A figure U.S. representative Vic Snyder said from his D.C. office that is probably on the high end of what it would take to handle more people at the base.

"I've never pretended that if you close one base and then move them to another base that you won't have to invest in that other base," Snyder said.

Some specific recommendations: \$21 million for a new youth center, \$7 million in improvements to the chapel and another \$16 million to the fitness center. The existing fitness center is already a \$10 million facility, opened just two years ago.

"It's hard for me to think it would take another time and half as much money just for another 2500 people," Snyder says.

The base currently has approximately 5,000 servicemen and women on base, in addition to their immediate families. However, Senator Clinton, D-NY, is leaning on the new cost estimates to keep additional C-130's from landing here.

She told the Buffalo News this week, "These numbers should deal a serious blow to the air force's argument that there are cost savings with moving the C130's from Niagara Falls."

It's a comment that isn't playing well in Jacksonville, about ten minutes northeast of Little Rock, where the L.R.A.F.B. is located. Andre Jeffery is on active duty in the Army, and the Arkansas native feels the former first lady should look at where she's aiming to keep jobs from coming.

"I still think she should consider Arkansas, considering all the support she had while she was here in Arkansas," he says.

Meanwhile, C-130 training continues as normal, the air force base not commenting on the cost study. For their part, staying out of what could be perceived as a political battle to save local jobs. Even if the new cost estimates are accurate, Snyder says all of it can be phased in over a long period of time.

"We always knew that when you move people to another base, there are costs related to infrastructure improvements, Snyder says. But over the long run, there will be substantial savings that can go into our national defense."

Final recommendations from the BRAC commission on which bases to close and move will delivered to the president on September 8th. Pending his approval, it will go on to congress for final passage on September 23rd.

FOX-16

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Business as usual expected

Owners don't see rally interfering with their shops

By Michael Hines/Times Record News
August 1, 2005

Despite the possibility of hundreds of people gathering to show support for Sheppard Air Force Base today, few of the businesses around the facility seem worried about any impact on their operations.

Base and city officials expect to conduct a postponed tour of the complex today for Ret. Brig. Gen. Sue Ellen Turner. The former SAFB nursing official will visit the facility as part of an information-gathering effort conducted by the Base Realignment and Closure commission.

Turner was assigned to the School of Health Care Sciences at Sheppard in 1976. She eventually earned a master academic instructor rating and later was officer in charge of all medical technician training programs. Turner left Sheppard in 1979.

Her return could mean seeing hundreds of residents rally near the base in the hopes of swaying her decision. T-shirts are planned to be available and "Support Sheppard" signs will also be printed in the Times Record News. None of it fazes Eric Rutledge, the owner of The Deli Planet said Friday.

"I don't really expect anything," he said. "They're not allowed to walk the streets, so long as they don't block the streets, I think everything will be all right."

A similar rationale was offered by Shelton Fugate. He doubted that there would be too much interruption at his game store, Pegasus Loft.

"I'm not worried about it," he said.

For Steve Blakley, owner of Classic Tattoo, the nature of his business usually means little will stand in the way of those interested.

"Our business in general, a lot of the times, is spur of the moment. I don't think it's going to affect people one way of another," he said of the rally. "If they want it done, if this whole parking lot was full, they'd park on the street."

The business owners will get an added cushion thanks to some measures by the city of Wichita Falls. City leaders are asking residents to line the road to Municipal Airport at 11 a.m. and to bring signs. Those who traveled to the state's lone regional meeting in San Antonio on July 22 are asked to wear their T-shirts. Some shirts will be available at the lineup.

Police officers will show participants where to park along Airport Drive between Municipal Airport and Burkburnett Highway. Those who gather will also be asked to not block the road.

That could alleviate the only real concern that Fugate would have: traffic.

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"I think it might slow down a bit if (the rally) causes traffic congestion," he said.

Even then, though, prior experience with such rallies has lessened how much the business owners pay attention to the crowds.

Back in June, Commissioner James Hill was set to arrive at Sheppard but mechanical problems on his plane forced him to cancel. Before that was known, however, local leaders had urged residents to gather near the base to show their support. Witnesses put the number of participants between 300 and 700 people. At the time, Rutledge said, he didn't notice any hubbub.

"It really wasn't a big deal," he said. "I really can't say I saw anybody."

Under initial BRAC recommendations, Sheppard was expected to lose about 2,600 personnel directly, causing a total job-loss of 4,400 workers and possibly an economic wallop ranging from \$80 million to \$120 million. But recent figures have the loss at 1,700 jobs directly and 2,500 total for the community. That could mean an economic hit in the range of \$36 million to \$60 million.

Medical/Military reporter Michael Hines can be reached at (940) 720-3456 or by e-mail at [Hinesm\(at\)TimesRecordNews.com](mailto:Hinesm(at)TimesRecordNews.com)



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Airmen instruction 101

General visits SAFB for immersion training

**By Courtesy of John Ingle and the Sheppard Senator
August 1, 2005**

Brig. Gen. James Whitmore got a slice of what Sheppard is all about when he received immersion training at the 782nd Training Group.

The 82nd Training Wing commander visited the 364th, 365th and 366th Training Squadrons to get a quick overview of what Airmen learn and how instructors teach them.

"Regardless of the type of training we do at this wing, to take a person who was a civilian eight weeks ago and, in a very short time, have them able to perform is really remarkable," Whitmore said.

The general's day began at the fuel yard of the 366th TRS Fuels Flight. Master Sgt. Jeff Young, the flight superintendent, briefed the general on the type of training conducted at the flight and what is expected of Airmen-in-training.

Personnel instructed the general on how to drive an R-11 mobile refueling unit on a flight line and how to hook up a hose to a C-130 Hercules. Staff Sgt. Michael Tinkham walked the general through the steps as if he were teaching a young Airman.

"I got to actually experience not only what they do for a living," the general said, "but how they relay what they do to Airmen they are training."

The general's whirlwind of training changed from JP-8 to telephone switches during his visit with the 364th TRS Telecommunications Flight. Staff Sgt. Raheem Roman, an instructor at the squadron, briefed the general on how students are taught to program a voice network system.

"There are a lot of details in each of these sub-areas that you take for granted," General Whitmore said. "You pick up a phone and it works. There's a lot that goes on behind the scenes."

The general headed to more familiar territory when he visited the fighter avionics flight at the 365th TRS. Tech. Sgt. Jon Pichot, a 13-year veteran of F-16 avionics and an instructor at the squadron, taught the general how to remove and replace a radio.

After spending more than 20 years in the cockpit of an F-16, the general grew to love and appreciate what crew chiefs and avionics technicians did to keep the heralded birds flying. But, he gained a little more appreciation after he was the one doing the maintenance instead of the flying.

"What I didn't have was an appreciation for how hard it is," he said. "Those guys out in the field make it look easy."

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After revitalizing some old memories with the F-16, the general moved on to a more purifying section of training at the 366th TRS Mechanical Flight. Kenneth Manuel, a civilian instructor, walked the general through each detailed process of a bare-base water purification unit.

General Whitmore said the purpose of his immersion visit with the 782nd TRG and his impending visits with other groups is three-pronged: to see what Sheppard does, show an interest in what permanent party and Airmen-in-training do and give them a chance to show off their capabilities.

"They take pride in what they do. They like what they do," the general said. "It's really important for those Airmen who are out there doing it on a daily basis to see that I am interested in what they are doing."

The general has visits to the 82nd and 882nd TRGs planned for the near future.

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Official trained at Sheppard

By Michael Hines/Times Record News
July 30, 2005

An official connected to possible job losses at Sheppard Air Force Base may not be on the facility's side, but at least she's been on its pavement.

Brig. Gen. Sue Ellen Turner, former director of nursing services at the Office of the Air Force Surgeon General in Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C., spent some time handling medical issues at the local base.

According to the Air Force Web site, Turner transferred to the School of Health Care Sciences at Sheppard Air Force Base in 1976. She finished the Academic Instructor Course, Test and Measurement Course, Academic Counseling Course and Instructional Systems Development courses. She also earned a master academic instructor rating and later was officer in charge of all medical technician training programs. Turner departed Sheppard in 1979 and entered graduate study at the University of Alabama.

Born in Chicago, she graduated from Presbyterian-St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing in 1963 and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from Incarnate Word College in 1973. She'd go on to earn a Master of Science degree in nursing administration and adult health from the University of Alabama in 1981. She finished Squadron Officer School in 1975, Air Command and Staff College in 1977, National Security Management in 1979 and Air War College in 1980.

She joined the Air Force in 1965 and was a staff nurse in a medical nursing unit at Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi. In 1967, she served as a staff nurse in the casualty staging facility at Tachikawa Air Base in Japan. She'd later join the surgical critical care nursing unit at Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio as a staff nurse. There, she graduated from flight nurse school.

She received her undergraduate nursing degree and was assigned as a staff nurse in medical surgical nursing at U-Tapao Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, until 1974. Then she went to the regional hospital at Luke Air Force Base in Arizona as a charge nurse and nursing education coordinator.

In 1984, she served as chief nurse at the Ehrling Bergquist Regional Hospital at the Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska. Three years later, she joined the Air Force inspector general staff in the Headquarters Air Force Inspection and Safety Center at Norton Air Force Base in California where she was a medical inspector. In 1988, she became the command nurse for the Office of the Command Surgeon at the Headquarters U.S. Air Forces in Europe at the Ramstein Air Base in West Germany. In June 1990, she became chief of the Division of Nursing at the Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center.

She has won several awards: the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster; Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters; Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with "V" device and three oak leaf clusters; Air Force Organizational Excellence Award; National Defense Service Medal with service star; Humanitarian Service Medal; Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon with five oak leaf clusters; and Air Force Training Ribbon.

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BRAC press conference scheduled for today

August 1, 2005

BRAC commissioner retired Brig. Gen. Sue Ellen Turner arrived in Wichita Falls Sunday in preparation of her tour of Sheppard Air Force Base facilities today. Turner will speak at a news conference at 11 a.m. today.

Mechanical difficulties forced a visit in June by BRAC commissioner James Hill to be rescheduled. Turner was assigned to the School of Health Care Sciences at Sheppard in 1976.

Under initial BRAC recommendations, Sheppard would lose about 2,600 personnel, mostly in its health care training unit. Associated job losses were estimated at 4,400 workers, with a possible economic loss of between \$80 million to \$120 million.

More recent evaluations put the direct job loss 1,700 and 2,500 total for the community. This rescales economic losses in the range of \$36 million to \$60 million.

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AETC News Clips

Sheppard AFB, Texas



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Combat preparation course required now for all

**By Courtesy of John Ingle and the Sheppard Senator
August 1, 2005**

The last time some Team Sheppard members touched an M-16 was when they went through basic training at the beginning of their career.

Now, personnel deploying from Sheppard and other Air Force bases to parts unknown are required to bear arms more than in the past because of mission requirements in areas of responsibility. Guidance from Air Education and Training Command leadership in December put the task of "retraining" Airmen in basic combat skills on the shoulders of security forces squadrons command-wide.

Staff Sgt. Daniel Hill, a member of the 82nd Security Forces Squadron, has prepared seven groups of Team Sheppard members for deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq since the directive.

"They were mainly concerned that other career fields weren't conducting combat skills training like security forces," he said.

When security forces Airmen from AETC bases deployed, officials knew they were ready for any combat situation that might arise, Sergeant Hill said. But, maintainers, personnelists and medics, for example, weren't required to continue training on skills like locating and building fighting positions, convoy operations and rifle fighting.

Every Team Sheppard member tasked to serve in Operations Iraqi Freedom or Enduring Freedom will now complete the four-hour training session prior to deploying.

Sergeant Hill said the course isn't intended to turn Airmen into offensive combatants, rather, they are trained to be defensive.

"We don't teach them how to fight," he said. "We teach them how to avoid contact with the enemy and how to protect themselves in the event of enemy contact."

Course attendees begin their training session in the classroom to discuss fighting positions, field hygiene and basic combat skills, including cover and concealment, tactics and techniques and react to fire, to name a few. Airmen have an opportunity to put their class work to test in two field exercises: rifle fighting and a short obstacle course.

Sergeant Hill said he doesn't expect class participants to become as combat-minded as security forces personnel, but the goal is to provide a baseline set of skills to build on.

"I hope they feel more confident if they were to come under attack," he said.

It's important to understand that Airmen are used in a variety of roles in forward deployed locations. The sergeant said Airmen could be pulled from their primary job to serve on a convoy. Because of the increased convoy missions, it's important for Airmen to understand concepts before deployment.

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